

ILLUMINATE
SERIES**“PEOPLE OF LIGHT”****SPEAKER: BO STERN BRADY****DATE: DEC 18, 2022****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:**ISAIAH 9:2, MATTHEW 4:16, MATTHEW 5:14-16,
ISAIAH 60:1-2, PHILIPPIANS 2:14-15, 2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-6**

During this third week of our Illuminate series, Pastor Bo focuses on what it means for us to be People of Light. Jesus tells us in the book of Matthew that, together, we are the light of the world. We don't have to work to become that, he has made his people to be a light. However, we can hide the light in a variety of ways. Despite this, being light is as simple as recognizing the innate worth of those around us and sharing the love that we have found in Christ.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. Where you afraid of the dark as a kid (or is one of your own children or grandchildren currently in this stage)? How did you (or they) deal with that fear?
2. Do you have any systems in your life that don't work that well, but you keep holding on to for convenience sake? What are they?
3. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Read and compare Isaiah 9:2 and Matthew 4:16. What similarities and differences are there between these two texts (Matthew is quoting Isaiah)? What do you think is the significance of these similarities and differences?
2. What does Jesus tell his followers that they are in Matthew 5:14-16? What does he tell them to do?
3. What commands does God give in Isaiah 60:1-2? How does God tell us we are enabled to live out this command?
4. What enables us to “shine like stars”, according to Philipians 2:14-15? What seems to be the opposite of this?
5. What allows us to give light to the world, according to 2 Corinthians 4:5-6? What do you learn about being light from the combination of all of these passages?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Pastor Bo said that the word translated “sitting” in Matthew 4:16 can also mean “stuck” Where in our world do you see people who are stuck, helpless in their circumstances?
2. How do you think our world would be different if all Christians embraced their identity as light?
3. Pastor Bo demonstrated that grumbling and complaining can be a “bucket” that keeps our light from shining in this world How have you seen this “bucket” Impact the light that Christians have?

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4. Another way that we can douse our light as Christ followers is by losing our focus, wanting people to believe and act on our own opinions and desires instead of the gospel. Where and how have you seen this happen in our world? Are there other “buckets” that you have seen douse the light of God’s people?
5. Pastor Bo said that “every time you focus on the innate value of another, you have uncovered the light” She gave an example of what that might look like with someone who was lonely. What are some other ways that individuals in the church might be able to do so with people who are struggling in other ways?

Look In: These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Are there any places in your life where you feel stuck right now? How does this message encourage or challenge you?
2. How often do you find yourself grumbling or complaining? How has that impacted your life and the impact you have on people around you? How might you remove that “bucket” from your life?
3. Have you ever found yourself losing focus on the gospel and wanting to shine for another cause or opinion? What happened? What does it look like to get back on focus?
4. Is there a particular cause or struggle that you feel passionate about (loneliness was the example Pastor Bo used, but other examples are depression, worthlessness, burn out, etc)? What might it look like for you to “shine your light” for people in these circumstances? What are small actions you could take that might make a difference to someone walking that road?
5. In what other ways can you purposefully “focus on the innate value” of those around you?

LIVE IT OUT: These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. If there is a particular “bucket” that you know is dousing your light, ask God that he would help you to remove it. If you feel like your light is weak, but you’re not sure what your “bucket” is, ask God to reveal it to you.
2. What can you do this week to “be a light” to someone around you? Remember, this can be something as simple as genuinely asking how someone is doing. You may also find that the place you need to shine your light brightest is in your own home.